

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 7444

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION SEPTEMBER 14

REF: BEIRUT 7419

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1. SUMMARY. SARKIS MAY HEAD UNITARY LEBANESE

REPRESENTATION AT PROJECTED SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN/LEBANESE MEETINGS. LEBANESE POLITICAL FIGURES HURRY BETWEEN BEIRUT, DAMASCUS AND CAIRO, ASSAD ASKS REPATRIATION OF KOURA REFUGEES NOW IN SYRIA. SARKIS INAUGURAL PREPARATIONS CONTINUE. SHIITE OPPOSITION TO PALESTINIANS GROWS IN SOUTH. SOUTH LEBANON PROVISIONAL GOVERNOR CONDEMNS VILLAGERS CONTACTS WITH ISRAEL AS "TREASON." MILITARY SITUATION STABLE WITH USUAL BOMBARDMENTS COUNTRY WIDE. BATTLE BETWEEN MOURABITOUN AND NLP AT BEIRUT MUSEUM AREA CROSSPOINT. END SUMMARY.

2. SYRIA/PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN LEBANESE RELATIONS BEING INTENSIVELY DISCUSSED IN BEIRUT BY LEBANESE AND PALESTINIANS AND IN DAMASCUS BY SYRIANS AND VARIOUS ARAB WORLD REPRESENTATIVES. WE UNDERSTAND ABU IYAD AND OTHER PALESTINIAN HARDLINERS DID ATTEND SEP 11 MEETING WITH SYRIANS AT SOFAR. DATES FOR A NEXT MEETING GIVEN AS SEP 15 OR SEP 17, POSSIBLY INVOLVING SARKIS, ARAFAT AND KHLAIFAWI. IN DAMASCUS FM KHADDAM IS TALKING TO AL'S HASSAN SABRI KHOLI (WHO HAS EXTENDED DAMASCUS VISIT) AND TUNISIAN, SAUDI ARABIAN AND KUWAITI REPRESENTATIVES. AS-SOUHOUEFIYA SAYS KHADDAM AND AL REPS INSISTING SARKIS REPRESENT ALL LEBANESE PARTIES AT SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN/LEBANESE MEETING IN SHTOURA BUT LEBANESE FRONT HOLDING OUT FOR FRANGIE REPRESENTATIVE. WE UNDERSTAND SARKIS MIGHT BE WILLING HEAD LEBANESE REPRESENTATION BUT NOT BEFORE SEP 23 EXCEPT WITH FRANGIE APPROVAL. AN NAHAR SAYS PLO LEADERSHIP HAS APPROVED ARAFAT PARTICIPATION BUT AL MUHARRIR SAYS PFLP HAS RESERVATIONS. AL MUHARRIR SAYS PALESTINIANS HAVE AGREED TO EXCLUDE SEPARATE NM REPRESENTATION FROM MEETING IN EXCHANGE FOR EXCLUSION OF PRO-SYRIAN LEBANESE LEFTISTS, BOTH OF WHICH CONCEIVABLY COULD BE SUBSUMED UNDER SINGLE LEBANESE REPRESENTATION HEADED BY SARKIS.

3. LEBANESE IN DAMASCUS. IN ADDITION TO SARKIS/FRANGIE ROLE IN SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN RAPPROCHEMENT, OTHER LEBANESE REPRESENTATIVES ARE IN COMMUNICATION WITH SYRIANS IN DAMASCUS. ALEXANDER GEMAYEL HEADS KATAEB
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DELEGATION, AND DANY CHAMOUN HEADS NLP DELEGATION, BOTH NOW IN DAMASCUS. RIGHTIST SOURCE SAYS LEADER OF SUPREME ISLAMIC COUNCIL CHAFIQ WAZZAN TOLD AL EMISSARIES IN DAMASCUS THAT ONLY THREE FORCES -- AL, EUROPEAN OR SYRIAN -- COULD END FIGHTING IN LEBANON AND AS FIRST HAS FAILED AND MUSLIMS OPPOSE SECOND, THE COUNCIL OPTS FOR THE THIRD. WAZZAN ALSO PROPOSED TO LEGITIMIZE SYRIAN PRESENCE BY PLACING LEBANESE

OFFICERS IN COMMAND OF SYRIAN TROOPS EVERYWHERE IN LEBANON. KAMAL JUNBLATT CONDEMNS LEBANESE LEADERS FOR "CRAWLING TOWARD DAMASCUS" AND PRAISES FELLOW HOLDOUT RAYMOND EDDE AS A "STATESMAN AND A PATRIOT."

4. SYRIAN ENVOY IN LEBANON. SYRIAN SPECIAL ENVOY COL. MOHAMMED KHOLI SEP 13 CARRIED MESSAGES TO FRANGIE AND SARKIS FROM ASSAD, MET WITH PIERRE GEMAYEL, AND CONTACTED CHAMOUN. ONLY HARD INFORMATION ON HIS CONTACTS IS THAT HE DISCUSSED REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES FROM KOURA PLAIN NOW IN SYRIA. NUMBER OF REFUGEES NEVER OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHED BUT MAY BE AROUND 7-8,000.

5. EGYPTIAN CONNECTIONS. PRESS HOPES FOR SYRIAN/ EGYPTIAN RAPPROCHEMENT AS LEBANESE POLITICIANS SHUTTLE AMONG THREE CAPITALS. SAEB SALAM PREFACED SEP 13 ASSAD MEETING BY TALKS IN BEIRUT WITH ARAFAT AND ABU IYAD. RASHID KARAME IS NOW IN CAIRO, WHERE HE HAS ALREADY MET WITH PREMIER SALIM AND FONMIN FAHMY, FOLLOWING DAMASCUS MEETINGS. PIERRE GEMAYEL DUE IN CAIRO SEP 14 LEADING DELEGATION OF BECHIR GEMAYEL, JOSEPH HACHEM AND JOSEPH ABU-KHALIL, AND EXPECTED TO MEET SADAT. PRESS SPECULATES EGYPTIANS MAY CHAIR MEETING OF KARAME, GEMAYEL AND SALAM. SHIITE IMAM MUSA SADR, IN CAIRO FROM DAMASCUS FOR SECOND TIME IN ONE WEEK, SAYS "SOUTH LEBANON IS PRACTICALLY UNDER ISRAELI OCCUPATION" AND THE SITUATION THERE IS "THE AXIS OF MY MEETINGS IN CAIRO AND DAMASCUS."

6. SARKIS INAUGURATION. MANSOUR PALACE EMERGES AS INAUGURATION SITE CHOICE OF WEST BEIRUT DEPUTIES, INCLUDING JUNBLATT AND MAJID ARSLAN, AS VICE-CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESIDENT OF CHAMBER MOUNIR ABU-FADEL PURSUES PRE-INAUGURATION CONTACTS. GENERAL GHONEIM PLEDGES AL FORCES TO SECURE ANY AREA CHOSEN FOR SWEARING IN. AS SOUHOUIYA SAYS SARKIS WORKING ON INAUGURAL ADDRESS, BUT DEFINITIVE TEXT AWAITS RESULTS OF PRESENT CEASE-FIRE EFFORTS, SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN CONTACTS AND LEBANESE/LEBANESE ACCORD ON ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS. NEWS AGENCY ALSO SAYS SARKIS HAS DISCUSSED WITH FRANGIE RETENTION OF "25 HIGH OFFICIALS" WHOM FRANGIE WISHES TO BE KEPT ON UNDER SARKIS ADMINISTRATION. THIS IS FIRST PUBLIC INDICATION OF FRANGIE EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE PRESIDENT-ELECT.

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 7444

7. SHIITES/PALESTINIANS. SHIITE ANIMOSITY TOWARD
PALESTINIANS APPARENTLY GROWING IN SOUTH LEBANON.
RIGHTIST SOURCE QUOTES SHIITE LEADER THAT MUFTI OF
TIBIINE HAS ASKED YASIR ARAFAT TO WITHDRAW ALL
PALESTINIANS FROM SOUTH LEBANON AND FORCE THEM TO
RETURN TO THEIR CAMPS "OR THE SHIITES SHALL NOT BE
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RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR SAFETY." SOURCE REPORTS
"NOTICEABLE CAMPAIGN" LED BY SHIA REVOLUTIONARY
ORGANIZATION AGAINST PALESTINIANS IN SOUTHERN VILLAGES.

8. THE ISRAELI CONNECTION. MUHAFAZ (PROVINCIAL
GOVERNOR) OF SOUTH LEBANON HALIM FAYAD ISSUES WARNING
"ALL CONTACT WITH ISRAEL IS TREASON AND A CRIME
FALLING UNDER CRIMINAL LAW" AND ANY OFFICIAL DOING SO
RISKS DISMISSAL. PRESS CARRIES PHOTOGRAPHS OF LEBANESE
LINING UP AT SOUTH LEBANON FENCE TO ENTER ISRAEL FOR
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE OR WORK. PRESS REPORTS ISRAELI FM ALLON
STATEMENT THAT PLO HAS LOST ALL CREDIT IN LEBANON.
RADIO ISRAEL REPORTS THAT LAA DISSOLVING DUE Khatib
INABILITY TO PAY SALARIES. LAA OBVIOUSLY IN SOME
DIFFICULTY AND WE UNDERSTAND PROBLEM MAY BE LOSS OF
FUNDING BY LIBYA AND FATAH.

9. GROUND SITUATION IN BEIRUT: MOURABITOUN BATTLED
NLF FORCES IN MUSEUM AREA FOR SEVERAL HOURS SEP 13
DESPITE AL PRESENCE AND APPEARLS. EACH SIDE BLAMES THE
OTHER AND VOICE OF LEBANON (KATAEB) BLAMES AL FOR NOT
STOPPING THE FIGHT. SEVERAL KILLED ON BOTH SIDES IN
RUNNING ARMORED CAR AND ARTILLERY BATTLE. REST OF CITY
GENERALLY QUIET. IN SOUTHEAST SUBURBS, HEAVIEST RESIDENTIAL
SHELLING AT BORJ BRAJNEH AND CHIYAH-AIN RUMMANEH, WHERE
33 REPORTED KILLED AND 45 WOUNDED.

10. GROUND SITUATION ELSEWHERE. IN NORTH, ARTILLERY
AND BLOCKADE PRESSURE CONTINUES ON TRIPOLI. WE
UNDERSTAND CHRISTIANS HOPE CITY, CUT OFF AND WITH
INCREASING MUSLIM COLLABORATION WITH SYRIANS, WILL SOON
FALL FROM WITHIN. IN HIGH METN, PALESTINIANS CLAIM
THREE SYRIAN RECONNAISSANCE PLANES OVERFLEW THEIR
POSITIONS SEP 13 AND SYRIANS STATIONED ALONG
BEIRUT-DAMASCUS ROAD HAVE STEPPED UP RECONNAISSANCE
PATROLS. ARTILLERY EXCHANGES CONTINUE, PARTICULARLY
AT BHELLAMA AND AINTOURA. IN THE BEKAA, POPULAR
RESISTANCE CONTINUING IN BAALBEK AREA, WITH CLASH
REPORTED BETWEEN SYRIAN SOLDIERS AND VILLAGERS AT
TALLET KABBAL.

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